

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of The Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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## Will You Pray For Revivals?

Rice-Shufelt Party To Be In Buffalo, N. Y., April 10-30 With Over 100 Churches Sponsoring Campaign Developed by "Christ For America" Movement: Special Need For Thousands To Pray Half Hour Daily For Revivals

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

For two or three years I have had a deep burden on my heart about inter-denominational, union, city-wide revival campaigns in America. After earnest prayer, I took a solemn vow before God in August, 1942, to do what I could do to bring back large-scale union campaigns. That has been the unceasing burden of my prayers ever since. It has also been the object of much planning.

I was thrilled with joy when I learned of the great campaign conducted in Philadelphia by Evangelist Hyman Appelmann, developed and planned by the CHRIST FOR AMERICA movement and directed by Rev. Horace Dean. Over 2,000 professed faith in Christ in three weeks time, I understand. Over 200 churches participated.

I began to pray that God would open the door for union campaigns to be sponsored by groups of churches for a number of evangelists. Evangelist Hyman Appelmann has had a number of such campaigns with blessed results. Other evangelists here and there have occasional union campaigns. Dr. Bob Jones recently had a great union campaign in Denver. Dr. Oswald J. Smith had a successful campaign in Boston a few years ago. In a number of places campaigns have been sponsored by groups of business men from several churches. We thank God for all such efforts,

but we believe that the ideal way to have revivals whenever possible, is for all churches in a given locality that believe the Bible and honestly want souls saved, to unite in great, extensive, far-reaching revival plans and efforts. The great revival campaigns conducted in other years by D. L. Moody, by Dr. R. A. Torrey, by Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman and by Billy Sunday were union campaigns in which large groups of churches (often practically every church in a town or city) cooperated. In such revivals millions were saved in America, England and Australia.

### God Is Now Giving the Editor Union Campaigns

Last spring I was engaged by the ministers of Door County, Wisconsin for a month. The first 2 weeks were spent in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin with 7 churches cooperating, besides the pastor of another church, in services held first in the Moravian Church and then in

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## If Christ Should Not Come Again---What Then?

By LOUIS T. TALBOT, D. D.

Pres. Los Angeles Bible Institute

Pastor, Church Of The Open Door, Los Angeles

I am going to talk to you for a little while this evening on the subject, "If Christ Should Not Return — What Then?" My text is the verse in the fourteenth chapter of John, where the Lord Jesus says, "I WILL COME AGAIN."

I want to take that text because I do not want you to question for a moment the certainty of His return. The Lord Jesus will come. That He will leave the place which He now occupies at the right hand of God to come in the clouds of heaven, first to catch away the Church, then to return to the earth with His saints to cleanse it with His purifying judgments, and to set up on earth His universal and everlasting kingdom, is just as clearly set forth in the Word of God as is His first coming. Not only did the Lord Jesus speak of this great event again and again, but the apostles bound it up with every doctrine they taught and with every exhortation they gave to Christian living.

You cannot, my friends, find one doctrine or exhortation

to Christian living that is not bound up with the promise of the coming of the Lord; moreover, it is the promise of the coming of the Lord that makes practical and gives emphasis to all doctrine and exhortation.

When the Apostle Paul, for instance, would exhort the Christians to attend the services on the Lord's Day and not forsake the assembling of themselves together as the manner of some is



Dr. LOUIS T. TALBOT he does so by an appeal to the imminence of the Lord's coming (Hebrews 10:25). He does not suggest a "Go to Church Sunday," but tells them that the Lord is coming. When he would inspire them to consistent living, he does so by saying, "I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thess. 5:23). When he would comfort those who mourn over their Christian dead, he does so by reminding them of the coming of the Lord, in those words of assurance and hope: "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout . . . the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. WHEREFORE comfort one another with these words" (I Thess. 4:16-18). There is nothing in the world so comforting to the one who looks into the silent face of a departed loved one as the knowledge that one day Jesus is going to return. Therefore, Paul says, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

When the Apostle James saw that toward the close of this dispensation there would be unrest among the working classes, and conflict between capital and labor, growing out of the fact that the lawful wage of the laborer is held back from him; and when he would exhort the Christian working man to have no part in that movement of Bolshevism, he does so by saying, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7).

And I could go on—I could take you from Matthew to Revelation, mentioning between three and four hundred passages in all which speak expressly and definitely about the personal, visible, bodily return of Christ; and yet, in spite of the fact that every page, as it

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## The Terrible Judgments of God

Sermon by EVANGELIST T. MYRON WEBB

P. O. Drawer 1409, Tulsa, Okla., (Stenographically reported)

Tonight I am going to bring you a message revolving around a subject that brings me no great delight. Neither does it bring any peace or consolation to my own soul. Quite to the contrary, it affords me only the deepest sorrow and stirs within me depths of passion never before known, for those who have rejected God's boundless mercy as well as His unspeakable grace in offering free salvation to "whosoever will."

I stand second to none preaching the great doctrine of the grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men, but the obvious fact is demonstrated on every hand, that the gospel message of God's love and grace for lost sinners is being almost universally rejected, therefore:

### Terrible Judgment Awaits a Christ-Rejecting World

I want us at this time, to consider some of the scriptures pertaining to these awful and terrible judgments.

"For God hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ" (Acts 17:31).

The Psalmist David saw this day and wrote it:

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people" (Psa. 50:3, 4).

Isaiah looked through the centuries and saw this terrible day and wrote of it:

"I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." (Isa. 45:23).

Solomon also looked forward to this day.

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret

thing, whether it be good, or whether it shall be evil."

The great Apostle Peter wrote: "For God who spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; . . . And knoweth how to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (II Peter 2:4, 9).

The Lord Jesus Christ gave to the beloved Apostle John, on the Isle of Patmos, a preview of that terrible day.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. . . . And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: And another book was opened which is the book of life: And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. . . . And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: And they were judged every man according to their works. . . . And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. . . . And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:11-15).

I will not have time tonight to discuss all of the judgments of God of which there are seven. Namely:

1. Judgment of the believer's sin at Calvary.
2. Judgment of the believer's sin in this life.

3. Judgment of the Believer's works at the second coming of Christ.

4. Judgment of the nation of Israel.

5. Judgment of the nations of the earth.

6. Judgment of the fallen angels and Satan.

7. The great White Throne judgment.

As stated before, the day of God's grace and mercy has been treated lightly by this sinning world. His message of love and forgiveness has been scorned. God has been patient with man's rejection.

"Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

Since God's grace has been universally rejected there is nothing for this world to look forward to but judgment. The inhabitants of the earth are judgment bound. By their rejection of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, there is nothing left for them.

"But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Hebrews 10:27).

### The Terrible Days of His Wrath

In all of the vast compendium of spiritual truth contained in God's Book of Genesis to Revelation, there are two outstanding facts revealed.

"THOSE WHO REFUSE GOD'S GRACE MUST RECEIVE GOD'S WRATH". Contrary to popular belief, the greatest question in the world today is not "the sin question." The sin question was settled nineteen hundred years ago when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross—when He, "In his own body bare our sins on the tree" (I Pet. 2:24). The sin question was settled when He "By grace of God did taste death for every man" (Heb. 2:9).

The great question for which the

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REV. T. MYRON WEBB

By all means read Brother Webb's sermon, "The Terrible Judgments Of God" printed here. Brother Webb is a forceful speaker, a fine Bible student and has had some great revivals with hundreds saved. In the last year or two he has been tied down by a big radio broadcast, but now feels he must take time out for some revival work. The editor has known him for years and feels that he is capable, under God, of leading in large revival efforts, and will hold most successful revival campaigns as he has done in the past. He is at home before large crowds, has large vision, has won many many souls. Groups who feel led to get in touch with our brother about revival campaigns may address him at P. O. Drawer 1409, Tulsa, Okla.

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## If Christ Should Not Come Again—What Then?

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were, bears witness to the truth that Christ is soon going to return to the earth, the average church member today is about as indifferent to the Lord's return as His disciples were about His going away. But after all, this condition is in harmony with prophecy, for the Apostle Peter says: "There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (II Peter 3:3,4).

The very fact that Christ was not recognized by the higher religious authorities of His day shows us what a dangerous thing it is for a man to accept the word of man in preference to the Word of God. This is the trouble today. Thousands of people, all down through the ages have substituted their own philosophy and their own thinking and opinions for the direct statement of the Word of God. Jesus says, "I WILL COME AGAIN."

Some years ago during a former pastorate, I was giving a series of addresses to my people on the theme, "The Return of the Lord Jesus to the Earth." There came into the service one night a minister, the pastor of another church in the same town. No sooner had I pronounced the benediction than this gentleman walked down the aisle and said, "I cannot agree with you on this subject." To this I replied, "Well, that is your loss, not mine. I am giving you God's Word and your controversy is with Him, not with me." Then we talked until the late hours of the night. The next day a woman who was a member of my church and who had overheard a part of our conversation the night before, called me over the telephone and said, "I do wish you would not get into these arguments." She ended by saying, "After all, you know that the subject is not a vital one. Suppose Christ should come, or suppose He should not come—what does it matter anyway?"

And do you know, my friends, all through that day there was running through my mind this thought, "Suppose He should not come!" Then I began to go through the Word of God to see what was dependent upon the return of the Lord Jesus, to see what is going to take place when He does come, things that cannot take place unless He does come. And as I began to think through this subject, the world seemed darker and darker until it was as midnight in my own soul. I began to ask, "What if Christ should not come?" I want to put before you this evening that picture as I saw it in all its darkness, should our Lord not return to the earth.

### I. If Christ Should Not Return, Not One Grave in This World Containing the Body of a Child of God Would Ever Open, and Every Christian Would Have Died in Vain, as Far as the Resurrection of His Body Is Concerned.

The Word of God teaches that the body is going to rise, that the body of your mother and the body of your child will rise out of that cemetery into which you placed them. Now friends, you cannot show me in the Word of God one promise of the resurrection of the body that is not bound up with the return of the Lord. "The dead in Christ," says Paul, "shall rise" (I Thess. 4:16-18). The dead in Christ! Oh, what an expression that is! The dead in Christ are in every part of the habitable globe. They are in graveyards. They are beneath the waves of the sea. It is

estimated that more than three million of God's people are buried in the catacombs of Rome. The Word of God says that they are going to rise in the clouds, every man in his own order; and just as there is a difference in glory between the stars of the heavens, so shall there be a difference in the resurrection. But when will that resurrection take place? It will take place when the Lord Jesus comes and not until then. If you take the return of the Lord out of this Book, you may as well go to your cemetery and pack down those clods upon your hopelessly dead, and carve upon that stone which bears your mother's name, or your father's name, these words, "Never more." They will never rise if Jesus does not come.

When I was in Chicago, I was told the story of a young girl, seventeen years of age, who had been saved from Roman Catholicism. She had been seized with galloping tuberculosis; and while she was on her death bed, her parents, her friends, and a representative of their Church used every argument of their theology to bring her back into their fold. She steadfastly answered them, "No, salvation does not come through penance or ritual, but through personal faith in Jesus." As a last resort the priest used this argument, "My child, if you do not come back, you cannot be buried in holy ground." To this the dear girl answered, "Bury me where you will; but when Jesus comes, He will find every particle of dust that belongs to Him." Ever since I heard that triumphant statement of the dying girl, I have felt that I, too, will not care where they bury me; for I know that when Jesus comes, He is going to find every particle of dust that belongs to Him. But, friends, if Jesus does not come, it does not matter what is done with the body—it will never come out of the grave, and death shall be triumphant throughout all the countless ages of eternity.

### II. If Christ Should Not Return, Not One Child of God Would Ever Be Rewarded for Anything That He Has Done for the Lord Jesus.

The Word of God teaches that we are saved as sons of God and we are to be rewarded as servants of God, that we are saved without works of any kind, in order to do good works of every kind. The man must be indeed a puzzle to the angels of God and a delight to the demons of hell who says he believes on the Lord Jesus, and yet never puts himself to any inconveniences for God or for His cause. We are saved to serve. Before Paul died he said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day" (II Tim. 4:7, 8). What day? Why, the day when He returns, because Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me" (Rev. 22:12). Paul, my friends, has been in heaven for more than eighteen hundred years, and has not received that crown yet. He will not get it until Christ comes; and if Christ does not come, then he will not get it at all. If Christ does not come, the martyrs have died in vain, and every man who has laid down his life for Jesus has laid down his life in vain, so far as his getting any recognition in heaven is concerned.

One of the strongest characters I ever met in all my life was young William Borden. His biography, entitled "Borden of Yale '09," should be in the hands of every young Christian. At the age of twenty-one he inherited a vast amount of money. He was a graduate of Yale University, and had his life before him. Under these circumstances life in the homeland would have looked very attractive to the ordinary young man, and it did look attractive to young William Borden; but he was not an ordinary young man. He chose to follow a path leading in the opposite direction from the one many would have chosen. I was present at his ordination service which was held in the Moody Church of Chicago. Soon afterwards he set his face toward China, going out under the China Inland Mission. On the way to his field he stayed in Egypt to nurse a missionary who was ill. The mis-

sionary recovered, but young Borden contracted the disease and very soon passed into the presence of God, leaving his wealth to faith missions and to soul-winning institutions like the Moody Church and the Moody Bible Institute. When the news of his death reached the homeland, many said, "Oh, what a sacrifice!" when they should have said "Oh, what a privilege! What a reward he will receive from Jesus!" But, my friends, he will not get anything from Jesus if Jesus does not come. Thank God, He is coming and He will reward every man according as his works shall be. When we say, "Every man," we mean, "Every Christian."

### III. If Christ Should Not Return, Then There Would Be Absolutely No Hope for This World.

There will be wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places for all the coming countless ages. You and I well know that the history of this world has been written in blood and tears; and yet, my friends, in the Word of God there is a day portrayed—a day of which the prophets have written and the poets have sung—a day when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, when the nations shall learn the art of war no more, when the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and the deserts shall blossom like the rose. There will come a day when we shall have here heaven upon earth. That day foretold in the Word of God is always associated with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth; and if Jesus does not come, this world is hopeless.

Have you ever noticed in the Olivet discourse that when the disciples asked, "What shall be the sign of thy coming?" (Matt. 24:3), Jesus looked down through the age and said that kingdom would rise against kingdom and nation against nation, that false Christs would come, false prophets would arise. He then went on to portray His return in glory. What a hopeless world this is going to be if Jesus does not come in that manner unto the nations! If Jesus does not come, the nations might well go on enlarging their armies and navies, building huge airships and submarines, because there will be need of them for all future time. These views are not very popular. A man who talks this way is looked upon as a chronic pessimist; but the fact remains that, in spite of everything pacifists may say, there are more men under arms right now than there were in 1914 before the war. This condition can never be changed by the dreams of socialism or by civilization or by legislation. No matter how sincere men may be in their efforts to correct things that are wrong in this world, conditions can never be corrected until Jesus comes.

Before the great World War of 1914, representatives of the Carnegie Peace Foundation were telling us that there could not be another great war, that a wonderful palace in The Hague had been built, and that all national problems would be solved there. A certain professor representing this foundation declared to a large audience in the city of New York, just a few months before the recent European carnage, that if Germany, England or America should have any trouble, their statesmen would meet in The Hague, where the only war would be a war of words, and the only noise would be that made by pens as men wrote on sheets of paper the settlement of their disputes by arbitration. The people applauded loudly. There was a converted Jew in that meeting, close friend of mine, a man who knows his Bible. He turned to a man, a ministerial brother, and said, "Did you ever hear such nonsense in all your life?" That man turned and looked at my Jewish friend as though he had escaped from an insane asylum, as he answered, "Where in the world have you been living for the last ten years? We are in the most wonderful age the world ever saw, and the process of evolution has so eliminated the wild beast element in man that it is logically impossible for the world to witness the bloody scenes of battle fields again." In August, 1914, the professor who gave that address was in Berlin. Then the war broke out. He was arrested as a spy and put in a dungeon; and he found that it took more than talk and the scratching of a pen to keep peace in the world and to effect his own liberty.

For four years Europe was turn-

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world will be judged is not the sin question, it is "THE SON QUESTION."

### "The Terrible Sin of Rejecting Jesus Christ"

It is a grievous mistake for Christ-rejecting sinners to treat the grace of God lightly. God hates no sin less today than He did the day it first began in the courts of heaven when Lucifer rose up to exalt his kingdom above that of God Himself. God's terrible hatred for sin can only be understood when the Holy Spirit has revealed to us how much God's own Son suffered for our sins, and how God dealt with Him in our stead and inflicted upon Him all of His wrath and hatred for sin.

The believer is SET FREE from the PENALTY of sin, not because of God's changed attitude toward it but because the PENALTY was invoked UPON the LORD JESUS CHRIST; therefore the believer is free from judgment of past sins. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

While the believer is free from judgment as pertaining to his eternal state of being, the unbeliever yet must face God's wrath and terrible judgment for rejecting the sacrifice of His Son. "He that believeth in the son hath everlasting life, but he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

Make no mistake, sinner friend, you may feel that because the Christian is enjoying the grace of God and that he will never experience the visitation of God's wrath, that you too may have the same happy privilege, but you are sadly mistaken. Life belongs to those who have trusted Jesus as their personal saviour. BUT THE WRATH OF GOD ABIDES UPON THOSE WHO HAVE REJECTED HIM. The wrath of God was spent upon THE BELIEVER'S SINS AT CALVARY. The wrath of God has not yet been poured out upon the unbeliever. It abides upon him now to spend its fury upon him at the Great White Throne Judgment.

### A Terrifying Question!

"What shall I do then with Jesus which is called the Christ?" (Matt. 27:22).

Make no mistake, my beloved sinner friend, God's terrible wrath is not going to be visited upon you only for the number of times you have sworn, cursed, blasphemed, nor the things you have done. While all of the acts of sins manifested in the human flesh are loathing and horrible to God, the question of "What have you done with Jesus, who is called the Christ?" is the worst one for which men shall give account to God.

What have you done with the One who was wounded for your transgressions and bruised for your iniquities? What have you done with the precious blood He spilled as an atonement for your sin? What have you done with the many opportunities He has given you of BEING SAVED? What have you done with His blessed Holy Spirit who has come to your heart's door and convicted you of your sins and of YOUR NEED OF A SAVIOUR who is able to "save you to the uttermost"? What have you done

ed into a vast cemetery. It is estimated that fifty-four million people died directly or indirectly as a result of that war. Then the Armistice was no more than signed when certain ones started to cry again, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace! How can there be peace while the Prince of Peace is away? He was thrust out of this world at the point of the spear. For nineteen hundred years since then man has demonstrated that he cannot govern himself, and he shall continue to demonstrate this fact until that One Whose right it is to rule returns to the earth as the earth's rightful King. Then He shall sweep the earth of all that offends and the saved nations only shall be in His Kingdom. The nations knowing the Prince of Peace will have their hearts bound together by His wonderful love.

When the war was at its fiercest, I was at a dinner in Chicago attended by the representatives of twelve nations. A converted Jew

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to His servants who have invited you to the great "wedding supper": What have you done with the prayers that have been offered for your soul's salvation? What have you done with the sermon proclaiming the grace of God and His blessed willingness to receive you if you would only accept Him?

### What Have You Done With Your Opportunities?

What have you done with all of the years He has pled with you and offered you "the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord"? What have you done with the many warnings He has given to you through the medium of His word and through His servants?

What have you done? I will tell you. You have

"Trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace." (Heb. 10:29).

You have rejected His invitation to the great supper of eternal life. You have rejected the refuge He has offered you from the storm of His wrath which shall break upon your napless head. You have stood with the Christ-rejecting Pharisees and have said: "We will not have this Man to rule over us." When God's preachers and personal workers have approached you and have told you of Jesus, the wonderful Saviour, you have, with those who crucified Him, unhesitatingly said, "Away with Him," "Crucify Him". You have thrust out your lip and sneered at His promise of eternal salvation. You have profaned that Holy name of Jesus; "The name which was given above every name that is named." The name at which the angels fall prostrate, the name man should only use with reverence. You have profaned, blasphemed, and wallowed that blessed name in the filth and mire of obscenity. The name that was only given to men to unlock the doors of heaven, you have used to unlock the doors of Hell, thus making your admission easy. Therefore the WRATH OF GOD ABIDETH UPON YOU and if you continue rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ, you will learn the intensity of "The fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." (Rev. 19:31).

### A Terrible Day of Reckoning For The Nations Who Have Rejected Christ

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him; then shall he sit upon the throne of His glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left." (Matt. 25:31-32).

Judgment not only faces the individual, it faces the nations. They too, will be called to answer the question: "What have you done with Jesus, who is called the Christ?" The history of the nations the world over is one that should cause a blush to creep over the earth, covering its inhabitants both small and great, with crimson shame. Two thousand years ago GOD OFFERED THIS WORLD A KING. One who would bring to it everlasting peace; One who would set up a just form of government; ONE who could have SOLVED its every problem and PREVENTED every war; One who could and would have JUDGED WITH EQUITY all classes, races, kindreds, and creeds.

But universally, the nations of the world have rejected Him. They have not only rejected His person, they have rejected His counsel. Worse than that, they have persecuted His servants and the blessed church for which He died. They have spilled the blood of Israel, HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE, in every land. Therefore the nations face a terrible day; a day of disaster and

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by OSWALD J. S.

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ruin complete; a day when even the powers of heaven themselves shall be shaken.

### Terrible, Even Though Yet Future

Some day in the future, it matters little as to when or where, when our days of stewardship on earth are ended, when church people have prayed their last prayer, sung their last song, made their last sacrifice, rendered their last service of love for the Master, when sinners have sinned their last time, cursed their last oath, drunk their last drop of liquor, rejected the Lord Jesus Christ for their last time;

"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (II Peter 3:10).

"The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage" (Isa. 24:20).

"The sun shall become black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon shall become as blood; . . . And the stars of heaven shall fall unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. . . . And the heaven depart as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island move out of their places. . . . And great men hide themselves in the dens in the rocks of the mountains; . . . And say to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne. . . . Men shall seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and wealth shall flee from them" (Rev. 6:12-16, 9:6).

### Not a Day of Individual Judgment

This will not be a day of individual judgment; that is reserved until a later date. THIS IS PHYSICAL JUDGMENT UPON THE EARTH. Great earthquakes will rend the earth, the sun will be turned to sackcloth and will not give her light, stars will stagger through the heavens like drunken men, volcanic eruptions and tidal waves will sweep over the earth, pestilence and famine will so overshadow the world that its inhabitants will seek death and be unable to find it. Every man's hand will be turned against his brother in bloody revolution, the unrighteous grapes of the earth will be fully ripe, GOD WILL THRUST IN HIS SICKLE.

The Son of God so long rejected will come forth, not as a MEEK AND LOWLY LAMB but as a ROARING LION. His eyes will blaze with all of the pent up fury of an insulted God throughout the centuries. This will be God's "Blitzkrieg" against sin, when, instead of bombs, HAILSTONES WILL RAIN FROM THE SKY; when, instead of buildings being raised by bombs such as now the case may be, God will SHAKE the whole EARTH like a terrier shakes a rat. Yes, it will be a TERRIBLE DAY for the nations.

"I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues stood before the throne, and before the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9).

This was the day Daniel saw in his night vision;

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: The judgment was set, and the books were opened" (Daniel 7:9,10).

When will this time be? It will be at the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, when He returns in all of His glory to set up His throne on earth. Lest anyone misunderstand, this is not the judg-

ment of the wicked dead. Even though the sinner lives through this time when God pleads against the earth with blood, pestilence and wrath, yet if you are unsaved you will have a GREATER and a MORE TERRIBLE DAY to face than even that which is recounted in the Holy Scriptures when the Lord arises to SHAPE TERRIBLY THE EARTH.

### The Terrible Day of God Almighty

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. . . . And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. . . . And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. . . . And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. . . . And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:11-15).

Lest I should be accused of presenting a sermon which some critics might label as being "dispensationally incorrect", I will say in passing what I said in the beginning: THERE ARE SEVEN JUDGMENTS OF GOD. These judgments are not simultaneous. I am in nowise presenting you with an idea fostered by the preachers of old times, of one day of "universal judgment", when, as was expressed in a song now often sung

"There's a great day coming;

A great day coming;

There's a great day coming by

and by

When the saints and the sinners

shall be parted right and left:

Are you ready for that day to

come?"

The seven judgments of God, while all being executed at different places and at different times, will all be terrible. IT WAS A TERRIBLE DAY WHEN GOD JUDGED HIS SON FOR OUR SINS.

### It Is a Terrible Thing For Christians to Be Judged For Sins They Commit After Salvation

Christians who foolishly assume they can continue to sin and open violation of God's righteous demands for a holy life and a holy walk, will be judged IN THIS LIFE, (and God does not spare presumptuous sin) for it brings the chastisement of God and Christians have been warned against living in open sin;

"For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful (terrible) thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:30,31).

All Christians are subject to the sins of the flesh and when properly CONFESED to the LORD they are BLOTED out by the SAME BLOOD that cleansed the Christian in the first place.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (John 1:9).

But for the Christian who will not judge himself, honestly and openly confessing his sins before the Lord, will suffer the consequences of TERRIBLE JUDGMENT IN THIS LIFE.

"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." (I Cor. 11:30-32).

I have felt obligated to bring out this truth to you Christians while passing on the great and terrible day of the judgment of sinners at the Great White Throne, for no Christian saved during this Dispensation of Grace will ever appear in that judgment. Christians are judged and chastened in this life "that we should not be condemned of the world".

### A Terrible Day Awaiting Some Christians at the Judgment Seat of Christ

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that

every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. . . . KNOWING THEREFORE THE TERROR OF THE LORD, WE PERSUADE MEN." (II Cor. 5:10,11).

There are many Christians living today whom I fear will not find a great deal of consolation at the judgment seat of Christ. Oh yes, they will be saved but "Though as by fire". There will be no reward awaiting them there but there will be judgment. Every Christian will be judged at the judgment seat of Christ "for the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad". The carnal Christian who lives an ungodly life, who imposes upon God's grace, who lives a life of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", who is a Sunday Christian and a week-day hellcat, a pious priest on Sunday and Mr. Worldly-wise-man throughout the week, faces TERRIBLE JUDGMENT before the Lord. You say, "Oh, I cannot understand this": Let the Word of God clarify your mind. Paul enjoined Timothy thus:

"Be not a partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. . . . Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after" (I Tim. 5:22,24).

You say, "What does this mean?" Beloved, it means simply this: When our sins are honestly confessed before the Lord, they are blotted out and "are open beforehand, going before to judgment", but when those sins are covered up, excused, and denied by the Christian, those sins "FOLLOW AFTER TO JUDGMENT". In other words, no matter how secret they may be and no matter how outwardly pious the Christian's life may appear to men, SECRET SINS will appear before them at the judgment seat of Christ. That is what Paul meant when he wrote: "IN THAT DAY WHEN GOD SHALL JUDGE THE SECRETS OF MEN BY JESUS CHRIST" (Rom. 2:16).

That is what John meant when he advised Christians to live a holy and consistent life,

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (I John 2:28).

### The Last Great and Terrible Judgment of God

"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28).

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Rev. 20:12).

I have briefly cited you the terror of preceding judgments in sequence, but none of them are to be compared with this "Great and terrible day of the Lord". The believer's SOUL IS SECURE even though he is chastened by the hand of God in this world. The believer's eternal destiny insofar as salvation is concerned IS SETTLED IN CHRIST even though unconfessed sin appears at the judgment seat to put him to shame. Those who are physically destroyed during the awful judgment God will visit upon this earth at the close of this dispensation; though their bodies are destroyed, yet their souls will be reserved until this last, great and terrible judgment of the Lord.

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Rev. 20:5).

The purpose of the Great White Throne Judgment will not be to determine whether men are saved or lost. That is determined only in this life, and the moment a person dies his destiny is sealed for all eternity. There is no opportunity for salvation after death.

This last and terrible judgment will determine the amount of punishment to be meted out to each individual. Remember, they are to be judged "according to their works". There are degrees of punishment for the ungodly just as there are differences in rewards given to believers. The person who has only neglected his salvation and who has lived a normal life will not be subjected to the same degree of torment as Adolf Hitler or other tyrants who have plunged the world into blood baths throughout the centuries but at that day they will be gathered

### A Terrible Crowd

"The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

Once I witnessed a terrible crowd in the city of Omaha. They had gathered under the frenzy of passion to put a negro to death. They were cursing, blaspheming, swearing, pushing and shoving one another. I thought at the time it was the most motley, inhuman crowd I had ever been associated with. (For I assure you I was an unwilling spectator.) I was caught in this surging tide of humanity and unable to extricate myself.

But at the Great White Throne such instances would sink into insignificance. All of the wicked of all ages will be gathered there. Wicked fiends who have plundered and pillaged, murdered and starved the subjects over which they have ruled, WILL BE THERE. Cruel fiends who have delighted themselves in the torture of the innocent, WILL BE THERE. Inhuman beasts who have, for the sake of lust, overpowered, ravished, and raped innocent children WILL BE THERE. Those who have murdered for the lust of gold and greed WILL BE THERE. The whiskey vendor, the gambler, the white slaver and all of the vicious, degraded beasts of demon passion WILL BE THERE. Those who have spent their entire lifetime inventing implements of torture will be there.

The debonaire, sleek, seductive scoundrel, who has deceived, degenerated, and debauched young women and robbed them of their virtue, will be there.

But there will be others there also. There will be those who would shun this motley and despicable crew. The moral man without Christ will be there. The good, the respectable, the decent, the religious, and the moral men and women who would have shunned the company of these terrible spiritual monstrosities, will be there also, for they too have rejected Christ and His proffer of mercy and pardon. They have rejected the shed blood as the sole means of atonement for their souls.

"AND WHOEVER WAS NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE" (Rev. 20:15).

### Terrible Secrets Shall Be Revealed

Atrocious crimes escaping the eye and investigation of earthly tribunals, will make their appearance there. All of the ungodly sins committed by man will be written in the book. None will escape the eyes of God. None have escaped His eyes and they are recorded by the recording angel to appear and meet the sinner in the day of his awful doom. "And they were JUDGED, EVERY MAN according to THEIR WORKS."

Crimes concealed from the eyes of man and unpunished throughout the ages will come to light in that day when God shall judge the secrets of men. (Rom. 2:16).

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every SECRET THING, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Eccl. 12:14).

### A Terrible Day of Doom

Men here boast of their freedom. They exercise political pull to excuse them from courts of justice. Here upon earth we offer our alibis but there on that terrible day men shall ALL BE PRESENT. There will be no absentees. God will grant no exemptions. God will hand out no deferments.

As one preacher has put it, building a new home, previous engagements, visiting out-of-town friends, taking a vacation, looking after pressing business matters, feeling physically unequal to the task, or just forgetting to appear: NONE OF THESE WILL PREVENT THE PERSONAL APPEARING OF A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL ON THAT GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD. Now my sinner friend, in closing let me say, God created you a free moral agent. He has given you the freedom of choice. There is no law of God or man that forces you to attend church, to be religious, live righteously, to accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and quit sin. You can hate, cuss and despise Him, you don't have to repent of your sins but there is one thing that you

### "THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY DOETH ALREADY WORK"

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (II Thess. 2:7-10).

"The mystery of iniquity doth already work," said the Apostle Paul. Though it was centuries before the man of sin, the Antichrist, would appear, yet already in the first century Satan was preparing the way and making his plans to bring forth a man, Satan possessed, who should rule the world.

Some people in this generation believe that surely the man of sin, the prophesied Antichrist, "the beast" of Revelation 13, the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8,20,24, must be revealed right away. They see on very hand coldness among Christians, the progressive wickedness of civilization, the increase of wars, the breakdown of governments, the crime waves and juvenile delinquency, and feel that surely these things are signs that the earth has about reached the midnight hour of its history. But we should remember that Christians and Bible students in all the centuries since Christ have felt the same way about their generation. Paul saw, and was divinely inspired to write it down, that even in his day Satan was already working, bringing forth these signs, getting the world ready for the man of sin.

Satan wants to rule the whole world. At the temptation of Christ, he tried to get Jesus to bow down to him and worship him and then rule the world for Satan. Jesus refused. So Satan works on every government, works continually in the hearts of men.

Why has the man of sin never appeared on the scene? Why has no dictator with world wide ambitions ever succeeded since the decay of the Roman Empire? Because there is One who restrains, One who prevents the appearance of that wicked one. The Holy Spirit, living in the bodies of Christians in the world will not yet allow the world to be turned over to the man of sin. "He who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed." When the Holy Spirit raises up the bodies of the Christian dead and changes the bodies of the Christians living and together catches them up to meet Christ in the air, then the man of sin will soon be revealed.

"He who now letteth" means he who now restrains or hinders. The Holy Spirit, living in the bodies of Christians, restrains the work of the Antichrist.

England is not all it ought to be, but the Holy Spirit living in English men restrain the Satanic ambitions of Hitler. What if the English king had not been a Christian? What if Churchill had not relied upon God? What if devout English people and American people had not prayed? What if there had not been enough Christians in the English speaking nations to hold people in allegiance to the government, to hold down communism and lawlessness? You see, the Holy Spirit still restrains the wicked one so that a devil possessed ruler cannot ever take over the rule of the world until the rapture of the saints.

must do: You must stand one day before the flaming, burning judgment fire of Almighty God. There you must give account for the way you have lived your life in this world. "For it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

Oh, let me plead with you in this hour to turn to God while the door of His mercy is still open to you. Fall at the bleeding Saviour's feet and there claim the forgiveness which is in His blood which cleanseth from all sin. Your sins are recorded against you. The tribunal soon will be called. The hour for you to present yourself will soon be here. I plead with you tonight to flee the terrible tempest of God's judgment and find your hiding place in the Rock of Ages.

## WHAT LIES AHEAD?

D. J. SMITH, Litt. D.

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## Will You Pray For Revivals?

(Continued from page two)

the high school auditorium. There was a good number of conversions. More than 40 made profession of faith in Christ and a number of backsliders were reclaimed in the closing service alone. The last 2 weeks were spent at Sister Bay, and the entire month we had daily radio services.

In the month of July, 1943, Mr. J. Stratton Shufelt, after about 8 years in the Moody Church in Chicago, came to help me in a month's campaign in Minneapolis. Eighteen churches on the North side joined together in a tent campaign. Many precious souls were saved, and the same group of pastors hope to have another such union campaign this year also.

In October Brother Shufelt and I had a blessed union revival campaign in Huntington, West Virginia, with services in the East Huntington High School, sponsored by 20 churches. There were great crowds and many were saved. The campaign was a glorious success.

In November, Mr. Shufelt and I conducted a union campaign in Elmira, N. Y., meeting at Lake Street Presbyterian Church. The campaign was promoted and sponsored by a group of laymen, with more or less cooperation from 34 churches in and near Elmira. I suppose there were not over 10 or 12 churches actively cooperating in the campaign, yet we had many saved.

As these lines are written, Mr. Shufelt and I are in the last days of a three-weeks campaign in Whittier, California, with services in the big high school auditorium. We are having people saved, though the crowds have not been as large as one could wish. Only five or six churches are giving full cooperation.

March 12 to April ninth we will be engaged in a union campaign at Everett, Washington in the Civic Auditorium, sponsored by 12 or more churches. That campaign is being well planned and we trust it will be a glorious success. In the early fall we go to Tacoma, Washington, God willing. We have a number of other invitations for union campaigns, some large and some small.

We thank God there is much evidence that the day of great union revivals is returning to America. Dr. Joe Henry Hankins of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, has two union revivals scheduled for the spring already. My brother, Evangelist William H. Rice of 314 Naperville Street, Wheaton, has one union campaign planned at Phoenix, Arizona, and perhaps others.

### Greater Buffalo Campaign, Over 100 Churches Co-operating, April 9-30

I recently received a letter from Rev. Horace Dean of the CHRIST FOR AMERICA movement, saying that the executive committee of nine men at the head of a campaign to include over 100 churches in Greater Buffalo, N. Y., had invited me to be the evangelist. The campaign will begin with sunrise

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service Easter Morning, April ninth. It will continue through April 30, with nightly meetings in the large Kleinnans Music Hall seating 2,500 people. This campaign was developed by the CHRIST FOR AMERICA movement. Mr. Shufelt will go with me.

I feel the deepest burden for this work. Buffalo and its suburbs contain nearly a million people, I am told. I believe we ought to reach many hundreds of them for Christ, perhaps thousands. Some of the best and strongest pastors in Buffalo are on the committee. Thorough preparation is being made, I feel sure. Now we must have a great pouring out of the Holy Spirit to fit the evangelist, the singer, the pastors, and many thousands of church people in Buffalo for soul winning, and to use us and God's Word through us, to convict and save multitudes.

This article is an earnest request for prayer. Will you begin to spend 30 minutes daily in earnest prayer for revivals? And will you daily mention to God this proposed revival campaign in Buffalo, New York, name this evangelist and Mr. Shufelt, and earnestly plead with God for a marvelous pouring out of his grace and power? Thousands of readers have been blessed through the "Sword of the Lord." Now if you do not bear up the editor in fervent prayer to God, I believe you will sin against the Lord. I beseech you to remember me at the family altar, remember me in your church prayer meetings, and plead for me in your secret devotions. If enough Christians pray as they ought for those of us who are trying to direct great city-wide revival campaigns, the revival fires will spring up all over America and millions of lost souls will be saved within a generation, souls that otherwise will surely go to hell.

Surely a half-hour daily in secret prayer for a revival, and for particular revival efforts and evangelists, is not more than any Christian should spend. Will you give that half-hour daily to secret prayer for revivals?

It is our plan to make the "Sword of the Lord" more and more a revival paper, to stir revival fires over America. I believe if readers will help raise the subscription list to 100,000 within the next year or two, "The Sword of the Lord" will be an enormously powerful factor in bringing back to America a great wave of revivals. Therefore, we covet your prayers for the paper and we urge you to send subscriptions to pastors, relatives and friends who ought to have these revival sermons and reports. The price of the paper is \$1.00 a year.

### Minneapolis Pastor Impressed by Christian Unity in Union Revival

Rev. Clifford R. Channer, Pastor Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, one of the churches cooperating in the North Minneapolis tent revival campaign in July, wrote the editor a most kindly letter from which we quote here:

"To me the special value of the meetings held was the fact that some 15 or 20 Christian pastors, representing so many denominations, could prove to the North side of Minneapolis we are really one in Christ Jesus. I learned to know some of the brethren I had never met before as fine Christian co-laborers. There is real hope for the work of the Kingdom when one can get the Christians from the Pentecost Church all the way through to the Presbyterians to work together with one particular purpose in mind, the salvation of the lost. I certainly enjoyed the several hours of fellowship I had with you."

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## If Christ Should Not Come Again—What Then?

(Continued from page two)

presided. Next to that converted Jew was a German, and next to the German was I, an Englishman. Sitting next to me was an Irishman, and the other guests represented Japan, Austria, Italy, Africa, China, and Spain. When we had finished our dinner, we all joined hands and sang, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." We had a wonderful time! Why were we there while the nations that we represented were seeking to destroy one another? It was because Jesus was in our hearts and, my friends, you will never get the nations to be like that until the Prince of Peace is upon the earth.

### IV. If Christ Should Not Return, the World of Lost Men Would Go On in Their Sin and Godlessness and Rejection of Christ Without Any Fear of the Future, for Then There Would Be No Judgment Day and No Time of Reckoning.

The Word of God tells us that God has appointed a day in which He shall judge this world by Jesus Christ, Whom He hath ordained as the righteous Judge of all the earth. In that day every man as he stands before Christ will face his own record, a biography that God Himself has written, recording the things left undone that should have been done, the things done that should not have been done—the words and the thoughts as well as the deeds. Men to-day write their auto-biographies. Sometimes friends write biographies of friends. In these man-made biographies the good is recorded and the bad often times left out; but in God's biography of man the bad goes in as well as the good. One day that record will be spread out in panoramic view and the sinner will be condemned by it.

When will this day of judgment take place? The Word of God always associates it with the return of the Son of God. (See Matthew 25:31; II Thess. 7:9; Rev. 20). The saddest stories of life have never been told. The injustices that have been perpetrated upon the weak and the unsuspecting must rise up before God like a breath from hell. Very few of the human monsters responsible for life's tragedies have ever been brought into the court of human justice; but into a court of Divine justice they will be brought, for the Son of God shall come. He shall sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered evil doers. Well may men fear that day, for Jesus will certainly come. But if Christ should not come, then evil doers, even the most devilish, would have nothing to fear, for there would not be a day of reckoning.

### V. If Christ Should Not Return, the Jewish Nation Would Have No Hope and Would Never Be Converted.

My friends, the Word of God tells us that the Jewish nation is going to be converted in a day, and that day will be when they see Christ coming in glory, when they look upon Him Whom they have pierced, and mourn as one mourneth for his own son. (Zech. 12:10). I believe that day is rapidly drawing nigh; and I believe that the Jew, as a nation, going back to the land of Palestine now, is getting ready for that day when heaven shall open and when Jesus shall descend in power and great glory. They shall see the marks of the nails in His hands and in His feet; and seeing them, they shall say, "What are these wounds in thine hands?" Then the Son of God shall answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends" (Zech. 13:6). The nation of Israel will at once recognize that the Angel of the Covenant in the Old Testament and Jesus of the New are identical. Zachariah says that in that day there shall be a fountain open for cleansing for the nation of Israel, and that fountain shall be none other than the blood shed on Calvary, in which they shall trust for the washing away of their sins. But this wonderful event will never take place if Jesus does not come.

### VI. If Christ Should Not Return, Then the Devil Would Never Be Bound.

I tell you that there is no hope for the world while the devil is the prince of this world. I do not

know anyone who can bind him but Christ. This great event is portrayed in the twentieth chapter of Revelation. I heard a speaker once declare that the women would bind the devil when they got the franchise. They have that now, and yet I do not see any evidence of the binding of Satan in Canada, and there is very little evidence of any change in Chicago or New York. In spite of every honest effort made by well meaning reformers and uplifters, the devil is undound and will continue to be until the Son of God descends from heaven. What a picture that is in Revelation! John sees the heavens open, and one comes forth as King of kings and Lord of lords, wearing many crowns. He takes the devil, casts him into the bottomless pit, and later, after he is loosed for little season for a definite purpose, the Lord Jesus takes him and casts him into the lake of fire.

Oh, my friends, what a nightmare life would be if we had no hope of the coming again of the Lord Jesus! But thank God, Jesus is coming again! Listen to His promise: "I will come again . . . the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout" (John 14:3; I Thess. 4:16). I like that word, "himself"—the Lord Himself. Now folk try to explain away the coming of the Lord; but, my friends, they cannot explain away that personal promise, "Himself." When the Lord Jesus comes to take away the Church, He is coming personally for His bride. He is not trusting that privilege even to the archangel, Michael. It would be wonderful, indeed, to have an angel or an archangel come for us; but infinitely more wonderful is it to read that the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven for His own.

I preached on this subject in Minneapolis some time ago when several ministers were in the audience. At the close of the service, one of them said to me, "Your interpretation is all wrong. The coming of the Lord is not to be physical, but spiritual." I asked, "In what way then is He going to come?" and he answered, "In the movements that are in the world." Then I asked, "What movements?" to which he replied, "All the new inventions and discoveries that make life easier and happier. All these gifts," he continued, "are the coming of the Lord. Why, the Lord is coming every day, and is bringing in enlightenment." I opened my Bible at I Thess. 4:16 and read to him these words, "The Lord

himself shall descend." Indeed, every Christian is thankful for the gifts the Lord sends, but there is a great difference between the Lord's gifts and the Lord Himself; and we are told that the Lord Himself is going to come.

When I left Australia some years ago, I said to my mother, "Mother, if God spares me I will come back to see you." During the years intervening she was waiting and watching for me. Had you gone to Australia at that time and said, "Mrs. Talbot, what are waiting for?" she would have replied, "My boy is in America and is going to come back." "Going to come back—what do you mean?" you might have asked. "Surely you are not expecting a personal, visible, actual coming!" "Yes," she would have replied, "that's the way he is going to come." But you might have replied, "Oh, he didn't mean that; you are mistaken in regard to his intentions." "Well, what did he mean then?" my mother would have asked; whereupon you might have said, "Do you ever get any letters from him? Do you ever receive any gifts? Does he ever send you anything for your birthday? Well, that is what he meant. He is coming in all these things, in all these gifts." "Why," my mother would have answered, "I appreciate his gifts, but that isn't what he meant, for he said that he would come back." Some years afterwards I did cross the ocean, walked down the gangplank from the steamer, and said, "Mother, here I am." I myself had returned.

So, my friends, while we thank God for every gift He sends during His absence, yet we long most for that blessed day when He Himself shall come and we shall see Him. "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout." Therefore, because He is coming, we can look into the graveyards and can say, "The dead in Christ shall rise." Because He is coming, we can work for Christ and know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Because He is coming, we know that there is going to be an era of peace and righteousness. Because He is coming, we know that there is hope for Israel. Because He is coming, there will be for evil doers a day of judgment and reckoning. Because He is coming, we know that the devil is going to be bound, and that the earth shall be filled with righteousness and peace.

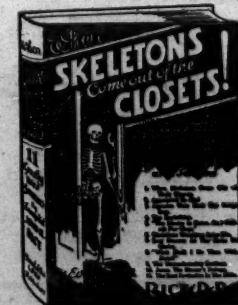
"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun doth His successive journeys run."

Our hope is not in vain, for His promise is sure, "I will come again."

## WHEN SKELETONS COME OUT OF THEIR CLOSETS

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